**Thesis:** Where do you turn to in our pain? Sometimes it takes getting to our most desperate state to cause us to turn to the Lord. But we can take heart in knowing that it’s never too late to seek the face of Jesus to rekindle our hope. The prophet Joel encourages Israel with these words in *Joel 2:13 “Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love…”* Remember Jesus in your time of need, for he always remembers you.

**Introduction:** Welcome to The Jesus Podcast, a year of stories showcasing the depth of Christ’s love and the glory of God’s truth. I’m \_\_\_\_ your host from Pray.com. You’re in for another heartwarming story of Jesus’ compassionate love. As we begin, be sure to follow the podcast to hear more miracles of the Messiah.

**Context:** Our miracle today is a heavy one. We’ll begin by entering into any parent’s worst nightmare: Caring for your sick child on the verge of death. We’ll be introduced to a synagogue leader named Jairus. While many of the religious leaders swiftly took a stance against Jesus and his ministry, there were some, like Jairus and Nicodemus, who came to a different conclusion. They were able to see past the teachings of the Pharisees of their day and came to realize that the carpenter from Nazareth was indeed the Messiah spoken of in Scripture. With a flicker of faith and desperate hope to save his daughter, Jairus seeks out the Rabbi named Jesus with hopes that the tales of his healing power are true and might be just what his daughter needs. Reflect on your own need for Christ and be encouraged to come to Jesus with humility and active faith. Even in our darkest hours, Jesus is calling us to believe. It’s never too late to turn to Jesus, even when all hope seems lost.

**Message:** Jesus healed many throughout his ministry. But only a fraction of them are recorded in detail throughout the gospels. And while they’re all noteworthy and play a significant part in developing our understanding of who Jesus is, few stand out quite like his miracles of restoring people to life. In our modern world of science, we’ve seen things that would have been unimaginable then: Restoring sight, rebuilding muscles, curing diseases. But something we as people could never manufacture is the ability to bring someone back from death. If there was anything that was a definitive way to show that Jesus was the Son of God come to bring salvation, it was by giving life and showing beyond a shadow of a doubt that he could conquer even death itself.

While Jairus may not have known at the time he came to Jesus that this would be the miracle he would perform, Jesus did. If we didn’t know the end of this story, we might think that Jesus’ timing was unfortunate from a human perspective. When Jairus left his daughter, she was fighting for her life. All Jairus needed to do was get the Healer to his house before it was too late. Yet knowing how close the young girl was to death, Jesus stops in the middle of the commotion over to the synagogue leader’s home. We might blame the woman with the issue of blood for being the reason for this speedbump, but in reality, it was Jesus that created the delay. Even though he knew power had gone out from him, in his omniscience as God he could have simply continued on without making a scene and speaking with the woman who had touched his garment in faith. Because to Jairus’ dismay, this delay was only adding to the pressure. And for him, it unfortunately added too much time as he returned home to find mourners and word that his daughter had died while he was away. There would have been a lot of reasons for Jairus to be upset, bitter, or angry. With himself. With the woman. With the crowds. And even with Jesus. But again, this is all if we look at it from a human perspective. But Jesus didn’t view life and time through our lens. He viewed it through his own lens. A lens that only God had. Jesus knew the girl would die, and that’s exactly what he was anticipating. See, Jesus had a bigger plan. One that no one could have guessed.

God’s timing is often different from our timing. We see things through a fixed perspective. We know the past, observe the present, and can only guess at what the future holds. But God isn’t constrained to time. He exists across time, knowing the past, present, and future. Which means that his understanding of what is best at any given moment is far greater than our own. It’s likely that you’ve had times in your life where you questioned what God was doing, or it felt like he was delaying a response to a prayer. And maybe that’s even been frustrating for you. But to see this miracle in its fullness, it reminds us to trust in Jesus’ timing. If God seems to be delaying in doing what you’re asking of him, it’s a good sign that he’s just preparing something better.

Peter gives an example of this as it relates to Jesus’ return in *2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

If you’re a believer, you might have asked yourself why Jesus can’t just come back now to create a new heaven and earth. And while that would be better for us, we understand why God waits when we think about it from God’s perspective, who desires that more would come to repentance and salvation. When we’re ready to move things forward but it seems like God isn’t, there’s a good reason for it. Trust that his timing is good and will be the best thing for you.

Before Jairus was able to learn this lesson, he first must learn another. When he arrived at home, those that met him to tell him his daughter was dead told him to stop bothering the teacher, Jesus. But Jairus needed to understand that he wasn’t a bother to Jesus. The Lord was the one who came with his disciples to perform the miracle. He was willing to wade through the crowds and sacrifice his time for Jairus and his family. So why would Jesus consider him to be a bother now? Jesus wants us to come to him and know that we’re not a bother to him either.

After Jesus feeds the 5,000 in John 6, the disciples meet him and the Lord tells them, *“37 All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. “*

Jesus came to earth in the fullness of humanity. He is Emmanuel, God with us. So we don’t have to wonder if he wants us around or is ever bothered by us. He welcomes us. He calls us to draw near to him. He loves when we know our dependence upon him.

Before entering the house, Jesus responds to the news that Jairus’ daughter is dead. He looks to the synagogue leader and tells him not to be afraid. He tells him to believe. Even when it seemed like the task had failed and others doubted and laughed at Jesus, Jairus was called to continue to believe. Maybe you can relate. Maybe God has given you assurance even when it seems like there’s no hope. And maybe others have even looked down upon you, thinking that your hope is an empty one. Perhaps they’ve even dissuaded you from hope with good intentions, not wanting you to wind up disappointed. But when God makes a promise, he’s going to keep it. When he puts a plan into motion, he’s going to complete it. Don’t be afraid when it seems like things have gone wrong. Continue to believe in the power of God and do not be afraid. Our God is with us.

What the disciples and Jairus thought would be another healing was winding up to be something far greater. Jesus had healed many from their sickness to the praise of God. But Jesus wanted this miracle to stand out. Not for the crowds. But for Jairus and his family; for Peter, James, and John; and for us as readers of the Bible today. This was a day where Jesus would perform the greatest miracle imaginable; something nobody else could do. He was going to prove himself as the giver of life. This is the second account in the gospels of Jesus restoring someone to life from death, the first being the son of the widow from Nain. But for as breathtaking as these miraculous restorations were, they were only a shadow of the miraculous life Jesus wants to give us. See, the people that Jesus brought back from the dead during his earthly ministry would still face an earthly death eventually. While Jesus reversed it for a time, death was still inevitable as it is for every human. But Jesus’ mission wasn’t to save people from physical death. His sights were on something much more lofty. Jesus came to earth as man so he could die a sinner's death, so that every sinner who puts their faith in him would have everlasting life. The gospel gives us hope that Jesus takes away all death - physical and spiritual. And while we may still face a physical death before Jesus’ return, we know that he will return to raise the living and the dead and establish a new kingdom whose reign has no end.

Don’t lose heart in this broken creation. Come to him, trusting in his plan. Believe and do not be afraid. And hope in him as the giver of life.